



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

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CWP-11643-2026

Date of Decision: 20.04.2026

DR. RUCHIRA KHULLAR**...Petitioner(s)****Versus****STATE OF HARYANA AND OTHERS****...Respondent(s)****CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA**

Present:- Mr. Aditya Jain, Advocate with Ms. Kannan Jain, Advocate
Mr. Gurjot S. Dhaliwal, Advocate
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Patrawat, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Tanushree Gupta, Senior Deputy Advocate General,
Haryana.

TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA, J. (Oral)

The petition has been filed, *inter alia*, seeking a writ of *certiorari* quashing the impugned suspension order dated 25.03.2026, Annexure P-18, being arbitrary and *mala fide*.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner contended that while working as Principal in Pt. J. L. N. Government College, Sector 16A, Faridabad, she had ordered the expulsion of a student of M.A. (Economics) from the College vide order dated 06.10.2023. Later, she was transferred to some other Government College. However, the said student filed a complaint against her after about a year on 19.12.2024 before different authorities, alleging embezzlement. An enquiry was ordered to be conducted, and after enquiring into the matter, the Sub-Divisional Officer, Faridabad, submitted a closure report, dated 10.12.2025, Annexure P-7. It records that the amount of funds collected as fines, donation as well as the amount received from the sale of waste material, were deposited in the bank account. Although there was a



delay of about five months in doing so, on account of the amount having been received, no fraud appears to be made out. Accordingly, there is no basis to suspend the petitioner vide the impugned order dated 25.03.2026. Further, it is contended that the petitioner has also submitted her representation dated 28.03.2026, Annexure P-19, in this regard, which has also not been decided.

3. Learned State counsel has received instructions from the Department, vide memo dated 19.04.2026, which is retained on the file case as Annexure 'A'. It is to the following effect:-

In this regard, it is submitted that after receiving complaints regarding financial embezzlement and violation of rules in appointment of Clerk, against the petitioner, this office vide memo dated 10.01.2025, appointed Smt. Sunidhi, the then District Higher Education Officer-cum-Principal, Government College, Nacholi (Faridabad) (Now Retd.) and Sh. Shamsheer Singh Gulia, the then Principal, Government College, Mohana, Faridabad (Now Retd.) to enquire into the matter and to send the inquiry report to the Directorate. Further, on dated 14.02.2025, a complaint dated 20.12.2024 made by Sh. Krishan Kumar, student M.A. Economics, 2nd year regarding financial embezzlement against Dr. Ruchira Khullar, Principal was also forwarded to the above said committee and it was again directed to the committee to submit the fact-finding enquiry.

It was further submitted that upon receipt of the inquiry report dated 13.03.2025 in which the allegations against Dr. Ruchira Khullar, Principal were proved, the matter was placed before the Administrative Authority for appropriate orders. Pursuant to the directions of the Authority, this office, vide memo dated 25.03.2026 (Annexure P-18), placed the petitioner under suspension with immediate effect, and her headquarters were fixed at the office of the Principal, Government College for Women, Faridabad.



Further, vide memo dated 28.03.2026 (Annexure R-1), the Audit Cell of this office was directed to conduct a special audit of the last three financial years of Government College, Faridabad, which is presently under process.

On that basis, it has been contended that the Department will decide whether to proceed against the petitioner further after receiving the special audit report.

4. In this view of the matter, it is apparent that the Department has decided to place the petitioner under suspension on the basis of a fact-finding enquiry, and is in the process of taking further action in the case, as may be required. Besides, it goes without saying that suspension in itself is not a punishment. Therefore, there is nothing to conclude that the impugned order placing the petitioner under suspension is arbitrary or without any basis.

5. Accordingly, finding no ground to interfere with the impugned order, the petition stands disposed of. In case the Department decides to proceed further against the petitioner, it shall be ensured that the relevant rules and instructions are duly followed and the Principles of Natural Justice are adhered to. Besides, the Department will be at liberty to take decision on the petitioner's representation dated 28.03.2026, in accordance with law.

(TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA)
JUDGE

20.04.2026

Ad

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No